

PROJECT

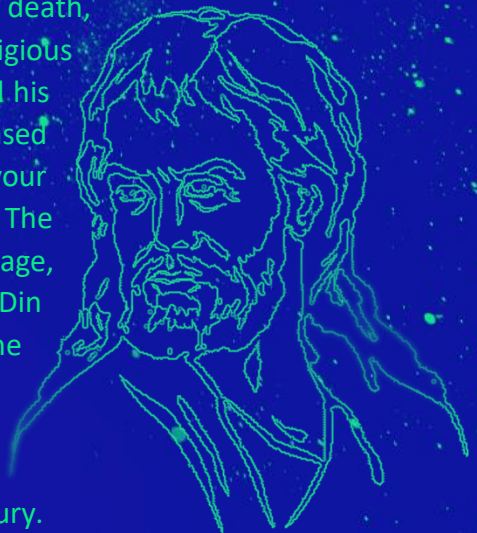
Persian Mysticism, Prediction, VR

"Fal or Bibliomancy is a good or bad and benefit or loss that could be predicted by hearing a word or a voice, watching something or a movement, opening or reading a book or watching specific patterns or images." Mohammad Vojdani

This project is about generating virtual environment of a prediction using unlimited online data based on the Persian Mysticism and tradition into a VR artwork. As there are many people got a matched results in a Fal and there are many stories about the magic of Fals in our history, maybe this online data will be used to generate a story, talk about a future, find a way or solve a problem through a virtual hafiz Fal.

Hafiz Fal "14th-century poet from Shiraz, Iran. who known as **Tongue of Hidden** because all the secrets inside his poems" is an old tradition of Iranian whenever someone has a question, face to a difficulty or a fork in the road.

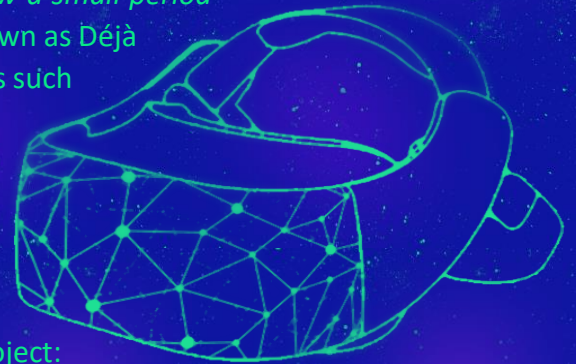
There is an anecdote about the first Hafiz Fal ever took, after Hafiz death, because of a lot of mentions about wine in his poems some of the religious people refuse to join to his funeral so Hafiz believers decided to put all his poems into a jar, asked a young child to pick up one so they will act based on the selected poem. the picked poem contained: "don't withhold your steps on Hafiz's corpse, he will go to heaven although he's full of guilt". The scope of taking Hafiz Fal is as big as the scope of the old Persian language, from Turkey to India, from Afghanistan to Bangladesh. Writer: Baha-Al-Din Khoramshahi has been collected more than 100 real anecdotes about the Fals that have been matched, talked about a secret, changed a way and solved a problem by predicting something. Also, Hussein Kafavi (Ottoman scientist, judge and literary) have been collected more than 140 stories about the magic of Fals and its magic in Turkey at 15th century.



Fal could be a mental connection between takers and their selected poem, this is a kind of connections that could be studied in parapsychology, something like Hypnosis and telepathy. In some theories it's also like a dream "*some dreams that show a small period of time what will happen in the future*", this event is also known as Déjà vu, what has been studied about in mental and medical fields such as neurological or genetics.

In the current digital era, visualized data could have a meaning of a real data to us, we trust the understanding of a 3D object in our screens as the real one in our real world, even if the 3D object is none-rendered, none-shared and low-polygon. There is a complicated question about this project:

Could a VR really do a magic? Some science fields like machine learning and artificial intelligence are trying to answer this question and got success in some steps but this project is trying to answer this question by combining those technologies with some old mystical traditions.



The first step of this project is translating the poems into a ready to search content, then managing a system for finding synonyms to have a basic understanding of metaphors or create new ones in VR. Then application should create an environment based on the content, this environment could be created and affected by many values through the selected poem, each value could consider on a specific part, from transform to weather,

gravity to color, position to movements and etc. the main materials of this environment will be API loaded from online texts, images, videos, sounds, and 3D models, so computer could present a predicted visual story. in the next phases, machine learning will help the project to improve the computer knowledge from the metaphors, allegories and other perceived aspects of each poem to generate more accurate predictions. The main researches have been done already so if the residency at Vaasa will be around 3 months I will prepare the first working version based on data visualizing there. There is no specific time preferred at this time but we should Consider the visa process from my country.

Full Text:

Survive and living well is something that the human has always trying to have, so in relation to the outside world human has always tried to get what brings success and escape the thing that makes loss and damage, in this way He gained a lot of experiences in getting benefits and escaping damages but In some cases the normal mind is incapable to choose between good and bad and human going to refuge to some mysterious things. Fal has been always one of these shelters. Fal is a prediction mostly gets from a book to show a good or bad thing that will happen in the future. "Bibliomancy" is the similar word in English with the same concept to fall, there is no specific date of the first Fal in the history but it seems ancient Roman does the same predict with the texts of Homer, Virgil, and the Bible. "Fal is a good or bad and benefit or loss that could be predicted by hearing a word or a voice, watching something or a movement, opening or reading a book or watching specific patterns or images." Writer: Mohammad Vojdani sad. Fal-of-Hafiz (Hafiz is a 14th-century poet from Shiraz, Iran) is one of the most usual ones in Iranian history, many people looking for their Fal in the Hafiz poems and this could be the most important social sides of his poems.

Fal in Iranian history

Opening a book is just a one way of getting a Fal and it includes see or hear about something and make a prediction on it, Fal is also something important in ancient Iran, and they have been using this in their everyday life. Ibn Qutaybah, Iranian Islamic scholar reflects some of this Beliefs in his book called "Oyon al-Akhbar" written at a year around 800, he mentioned: when they leave home if they faced a boy going to the school or a tied animal or an animal carrying wine or firewood they get it into a bad horoscope and on the other side if they face a boy going back from school to home or an animal carrying food or fruit get it into a good horoscope for their day, Cock voice means man's sickness and chicken's voice means woman's sickness. owl's voice means healing patients and the sound of frog means a death to them. There are also some researches about how many Fals come true and show some specific information about the future in Iranian history, and how a Fal could affect a decision. "Al-Ma'mun (the seventh Abbasid caliph, who reigned from 813 until his death in 833) when he came back from a war in Roman, decided to sit and have a rest beside a river bank named "Qoshayreh" for a few days, then he got sicked and asked about the name of the river bank from Roman captives, he found out that the translation of the river name is "Modd-A-Rejolak" what means Lay your legs, he takes it as a bad Fal and ask about the Arabic translation of this word, what means "Ragh-e", what have been predicted as his death place, there was also a city with the same name in Iraq what he has been always changed his way to prevent entering it, finally he died after a few days in the place beside the river bank." Islamic scholar Muhammad Khwandamir written in his book named Habib al-Siyar.

Fal in Iranian literature

Persian literature is a good reflection of the importance of Fal in Iranian lifestyle. Farrukhi Sistani (10th -11th-century poet from Sistan, Iran) believes that Universe and Its arrangement is all based on a Fal in one of his poems. Hafiz also talked about Fal in his poems many times, my eyes looking at the beloved, hearing the sound of harp - I'm taking a Fal with my eyes and ears. He said in a poem, it seems while he is facing the beauty of his beloved and hearing a sweet sound of harp, he takes the moment as a good time for predicting something good about future. In another poem he talked about watching a shooting star while he's getting Fal and get it as a good Fal and success. But there are some negative perspectives about Fal, for example Sanai (12th-century Persian language poet from Ghazni, what now is Afghanistan) believes in: "there is no power over the gods power, who manage the good and bad happenings, no one takes a breath without his order and there are no benefits in Fal" in one of his poems.

Hafiz Fal in Iranian Social life

Taking Fal is an old tradition of Iranian, people take it when they have to choose a way or made a decision about something, people also do it in some specific nights each year, like the last Wednesday of year when people celebrate it as "Chahar Shanbe Soori" or Yalda night, what is a celebration of the longest and darkest night of the year. The most usual way of taking hafiz Fal today is to take the Hafiz poems book (Hafiz's Divan) in hands and say, regards to Hafiz, I'm looking for a secret, I swear you to your "Shakhe Nabat" (the name of hafiz's beloved), open your Fal to me. Then ask their question and open a random page of the book by closing eyes, the right page of the book will be the Fal.

Each Fal has an evidence; which is the first three line of the next poem on the left side of the book, but some people believed on the third or the seventh line of the next poem as the evidence. for deeper study on the ways and the rules of taking hafiz Fal I refer to the book "I swear you to your Shakh-e-Nabaat" written by Dr.Mahmoud Rouholamini (contemporary Iranian Anthropologist) who studied on Public society beliefs of Hafiz Fal and he mentioned: "taking

Hafiz Fal has many manners and terms, you should not take Fal by a Hafiz book with Torn page(s), or a book without some page(s), Taking more than three Fals for a person and topic is a kind of Disrespect to Hafiz, you may face to Qibla (is the direction that should be faced when a Muslim





prays during Ṣalāt) while taking hafiz Fal.” There is also another usual way of taking hafiz Fal today through picking a poem paper by a Budgerigar what is so popular in city streets of Iran and specifically in shiraz an in the tomb of Hafiz.

The scope of Hafiz Fal

The scope of taking Hafiz Fal is as big as the scope of the old Persian language, from Turkey to India, from Afghanistan to Bangladesh. “Hafiz Divan is so popular, people taking their Fal with it and there are many Fals matched with the feeling of the takers, that’s the reason why people calling Hafiz Lesan-Al-Qheib (Hafiz is also known as Tongue of the Hidden because all the secrets inside his poems)” Kâtip Çelebi who later known as Haji Khalifa (was an Ottoman scholar, historian, and geographer) written in his book named “Kashf-Al-Zoon” said.

The first Hafiz Fal

There is an anecdote about the fist Hafiz Fal ever took, after Hafiz’ death, because of a lot of mentions about wine in his poems some of the religious people refuse to join to his funeral so Hafiz believers and fans decided to put all his poems into a jar (while his poems have not been Binding yet and they were written on some separated papers) then they decided to ask a young child to pick up one of them so they will act based on the selected poem, the picked poem was contained: “don’t withhold your steps on Hafiz’s corpse, he will go to heaven although he’s full of guilt” then all the people joined his funeral with regards.

More details about Hafiz Fal

One of the most important functions of poems in Iranian literature is to contain many layers and various aspects of meaning inside and these facts are what Hafiz is really strong in. the current feelings of the person who taking Fal and his/her inspire of the poem is going to be as important as the meaning of the poem and making the prediction. The poem will roll as a stencil for the person who tries to put his/her own good or bad feelings into the symbols, metaphors, allegories and other perceived aspects of the poem. That’s the reason why everybody from any social stratification with any types of lifestyle and culture could be connected to the Fal and find something related to their current and past feelings and predict about the future. But about the main question of “Is the Fal something true?” no one could totally accept or reject it, In the book named “Hafiz’s Wonderful-Fals”, Baha-Al-Din Khoramshahi have been collected more than 100

anecdotes about the Fals that have been matched and changed a way. It's a small selection and a result of the writer researches and most of them are contemporary stories, Also Hussein Kafavi (Ottoman scientist, judge and literary) have been collected more than 140 stories about Fal and its wonders in Turkey at 15th century. This book is written in Turkey language and named "Raz Name" what means secret letter, in the book the writer, mentioned the importance of Fal at that time in Istanbul.

There are some criticisms on the Hafiz Fal, the most important ones are about the accidentals in matching Fals and in general it's about explaining the Fal as a refuge of human to the hidden world to find a hope for the future. the answers of accidentals in the matched Fals is about the multidimensional fact of Hafiz poems, there are so many topics and metaphors in his poems, In a result of a study found out there are more than 206 topics described in the Hafiz poems, and about the main function of Fal, this could be like a dream or a pray and It's not possible to totally be sure about its getting come true and It's working perfectly, while if everyone knows how to ask something to be sure to get it, there were no dreams left has not been come true, Fal could be a mental connection between the people and the selected poem, this a kind of connections that could be studied in parapsychology, something like Hypnosis and telepathy that most of the people have already accepted them. In some theories it's also like a dream (some dreams that shows a small period of time what will happen in the future, that's already happened to me many times, to see a dream, then in a near future review the dream in the real life), this event is also known as Déjà vu, what have been studied about in mental and medical fields such as neurological or genetics.

What is Niyat

As mentioned before, taking Fal is for whenever someone has a question, faced to a difficulty or a fork in the road, so one of the most important parts of a Fal is "Niyat", Niyat means the main intent of getting Fal, this is what people whisper before opening the book, Its recommended to not using bad or negative Niyats for taking Fal and it should contain positive words and Benevolence in its content and generally ask a question inside, after whispering the Niyat and asking Hafiz for opening a Fal, then taker should search for the matched concepts from his/her Niyat into the Fal, that's the reason why knowing well about Hafiz and his poem is helpful to understand the connections between the Niyat and the Fal. But its not just about analyzing the poem to find the message inside statically, Its more about inspiring by the poem based on the current Niyat. meanwhile, not just each poem could roll different for everyone but It could inspire new concepts in each Fal and Niyat. This dynamic rolling of



the poems will generate new concepts each time at each Fal and all of this is based on the complexity at the same time simplicity of the poems.

The significant side of taking Fal is about the inspiration of the poem, in some Hafiz books there is a Fal text beside each poem, that means someone who is aware of Hafiz poems writes his/her inspirations and analysis of the poem, so the taker of Fal could be inspired by the translated one! There are many facts in getting Fal from the poem, some of them are based on the main concepts and some of them are about some specific words in the poem, for example, there may be "fear" word in a poem, regardless of the content that this word used in, this word singly could be the match point of the Fal while the Niyat is something about fear, there are many anecdotes about the Fals that shows a specific word related to the taker's Niyat, like showing a name, a place, an animal and etc that makes a magic and taker gets the answer while he/she could found out the meaning of the poem at his/her current situation.

Digitalizing the Hafiz Fal

In the current digital era, images, pixels, colors, shapes, light, shadows and etc have an important place in our everyday communications, watching tv and online data, advertisings in streets, all visual data in our phone and many other ways of getting data from our world is going to make our brain more visual based. Visualized data could have a meaning of real data to us and we trust the understanding of a 3D object in our screens as the real one in our real world, even if the 3D object is none-rendered, none-shared and low polygon. There are also so many virtual contents with a nonphysical existence in our life that we believe on them and they have a specific or a range of meaning to us, while we may spend a time with them in our virtual life or seen a function and characteristic of them. But there is a wide range of concepts from the past that still alive in our everyday life and needs to be updated to be compatible with our current life.

By developing the computer sciences and digital art at this age, in most digital artworks computer is an active mind by getting data, process, analyze, visualize, and present them and it seems we have a common language. This project is about using computer to generating Fal based on the Persian Mysticism, tradition and beliefs into a VR project.

The main question of this project is about the relations between emerging technologies and mystical contents, I think this relation could be similar to the relation of technology and art, technology could help artistic ideas to be presented as effective as have never been experienced before but technology could also bring some new possibility for art to present new ideas based on this emerging possibility. This project is not just about presenting a mystical content documented with digital technologies but using the technology to join into the content and reproduce new data. There is a complicated question about: Could a VR artwork really do a magic? Some science fields like machine learning and artificial intelligence are trying to answer this question and get success in some steps but this project is trying to answer this question by combining those technologies with some old Iranian traditions. Traditions that are alive in our everyday life and there are many signs to demonstrate their truth or existence.

Finding the best technical solution is one of the most important parts of this project, there should be a good connection managed between the content (Hafiz poems) and selected data, as well choosing the seat of computer as a mind to generate the data and present something up to date and uniquely based on the poem. The first step of this project is translating poems into a ready to search content, managing a system for finding synonyms to have a basic understanding of metaphors or create new ones. Then we should create an environment based on the content, this environment could be created and effected based on many values inside the selected poem, each value could consider on a specific part, from scale to weather, gravity to color, position to movements and etc. some special parts of poem that contain complicated meaning and refers to a story or special metaphors could be introduced to computer in the programming phase to get the best results. the other parts could be analyzed by computer using artificial intelligence and machine learning, there are already some API services for real-time loading online texts, images, sounds, and even 3D models into the project, so computer could present a visual story in the produced environment. as there are so many people get a matched results based on their Niyats and there are many stories about the magic of Hafiz Fal in our history, maybe this online data will make a story and talk about a solution, find a way or solve a problem, for who is taking a virtual hafiz Fal.

FAL Project AR Book Version



FAL Project Exhibition in OMO
Artspace Berlin



FAL Project Presentation and talk
in BAU University Barcelona



**FAL project by
Mohsen Hazrati**

FAL Project Presentation in
IAM WEEKEND 19 Barcelona

Best wishes

Mohsen Hazrati